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Message Text

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20
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 H-03 L-03 SP-03 EB-11

IGA-02 SWF-02 SS-20 SPM-01 SCI-06 PC-10 DRC-01 RSC-01

AGR-20 /167 W
---------- 047948
R 301600Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6413
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, SENV, DM
SUBJ: FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE OF 1974

REF A. STATE 156186 B. COTONOU 773

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH DAHOMEY NOT SEVERELY AFFECTED BY DROUGHT, NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY DOES SHOW SOME LIMITED ADVERSE EFFECTS. MUCH DEPENDS ON THIS YEAR'S RAINS, WHICH HAVE SO FAR BEEN VERY GOOD. ALTHOUGH PAST YEAR'S MEAGER HARVESTS HAVE RESULTED IN ISOLATED SHORTAGES, PROBLEM IS NOT ACUTE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE REF A'S REQUEST FOR INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF DROUGHT ON DAHOMEY, WE HAVE POLLED NON-HOST GOVERNMENT SOURCES FAMILIAR WITH SITUATION (E.G. PEACE CORPS, FAO, FED). PRESENT ASSESSMENT DOES NOT DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THAT CONTAINED REF B THAT PROBLEM OF FOOD SHORTAGES HAS SO FAR APPEARED IN ONLY ISOLATED POCKETS IN NORTHERN DAHOMEY, NONE OF WHICH IS FAR FROM WELL-STOCKED SUPPLY AREAS. UP TO NOW, RAINS IN NORTH THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN PROMISING, RUNNING WELL AHEAD LEVEL OF PAST FEW YEARS. HOWEVER, IF AMOUNT OF RAINFALL
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DROPS SIGNIFICANTLY OVER LATTER HALF OF RAINY SEASON, RES-

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ULTING POOR HARVEST WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CAUSE SOME FOOD SHORTAGES.

3. DROUGHT IS CAUSING SOME SOCIAL SHIFTS IN NORTHERN DAHOMEY. APPARENTLY MORE HERDSMEN THAN USUAL ARE MOVING SOUTH THIS YEAR IN SEARCH OF GRAZING LANDS. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF MORE THAN NORMAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BETWEEN RESIDENT FARMERS AND NOMAD HERDSMEN OVER GRAZING RIGHTS.

4. AS FOR EFFECT ON REST OF DAHOMEY, GRAIN SHIPMENTS TO NIGER AND EASTERN MALI HAVE SEVERELY TAXED CAPACITY OF DAHOMEY'S PORT/RAIL/TRUCK TRANSPORT SYSTEM. HOWEVER, EFFECT OF THIS EFFORT ON NORMAL SUPPLY MOVEMENTS TO NORTHERN DAHOMEY HAS BEEN NEGLIGIBLE. THUS FAR, NO SIGNIFICANT POPULATION MIGRATION FROM NORTH TO SOUTH WITHIN DAHOMEY CAN BE DISCERNED ASIDE FROM SOMEWHATHIGHER THAN USUAL NOMAD HERDSMEN MOVEMENTS.
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